



USMC AMMUNITION QUARTERLY



Volume 6, No. 3

Marine Corps Information Publication

July, 2000

From the PM for Ammunition

Mr. Jerry L. Mazza
MARCORSYSCOM-AM



First, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the Ammunition Quarterly. I am pleased with the input of my staff and those throughout the Marine Corps ammunition community. The diverse subject matter should accommodate the intended purpose of this publication; to enhance the technical and explosives safety knowledge of our ground ammunition occupational field as well as those who depend on our unique commodity.

In this edition, you will find three primary articles; Ammunition Operations at Blount Island Command, Deliberate Planning related to Class V (W), and an extensive submit from CWO2 Holtzclaw and MGySgt Hodges on the Marine Ammunition School. Those familiar with the training of our new ammo techs and ammunition managers will see that much has changed over the years in this crucial training. I am confident that working with the school and MCCDC, we will see MCI related training in the foreseeable future!

Shortly, we will enter the new Fiscal Year. As the Program Manager, I retain overarching responsibility for the Life Cycle Management of Marine Corps Class V (W). I believe the depth and breadth of our mission mandates a clear vision...a forward thinking document to map the direction of ground ammunition affairs. Accordingly, I plan on meeting FY01 with that direction in mind.

My senior staff and I are in the process of developing FY01 Guiding Principles for Ground Ammunition.

It is essential to incorporate the myriad internal Marine Corps, Department of Defense, and other agency concepts, policies and doctrine to ensure the future of ground ammunition accommodates the vision of our Leadership. These guiding principles will serve as that map in addressing critical issues facing the future of this commodity as well as to educate the reader on the state of Marine Corps Ground Ammunition. The end result will be short, mid-term, and long-term goals to strive for. I anticipate inclusion of this document in the next edition of the Ammunition Quarterly.

Semper Fi

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29th Department of Defense Explosives Safety Seminar

George Morrison
MARCORSYSCOM/AM-EES

The Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) is hosting its 29th biennial Explosives Safety Seminar, 18-20 July 2000. The seminar will be held at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans LA.

This seminar is the premier forum for Explosives Safety and attracts worldwide participation. Explosives Safety professionals present the latest in research, development, and testing during numerous technical sessions held daily during the seminar. Representatives from business and industry also attend and display/demonstrate the latest in related products and services. In recent years there has also been growing participation from environmental fields as well.

PMAM, as the Marine Corps Board member, will host a Chemical Warfare Materials seminar session. There are four presentations, approximately 30 minutes each, scheduled. Topics include removal action studies, stockpile demil, test of sealed blast chambers, and structural repair/acceptance of blast containment walls.

APT Research, a DDESB contractor, will demonstrate Safety Assessment for Explosives Risk (SAFER). This computer risk assessment model has recently been approved for trial use in conjunction with established quantity-distance requirements. SAFER will be available for USMC explosives safety officers use in the near future.

Seminar registration, accommodation, and agenda information is available on the DDESB WebPages: <http://www.hqda.army.mil/ddesb/esb.html>. Ω

Mr. Morrison is assigned to the Environmental and Explosives Safety Branch of MARCORSYSCOM/AM, and may be reached at DSN 278-9476.

Top 10 Most Unwanted

Capt. Phil Wahle
MARCORSYSCOM/AM-EES

According to statistics provided by the Naval Safety Center, the following are the 10 most noted discrepancies on Marine Corps installations:

1. EXPLOSIVE MISHAP NOT BEING REPORTED. Ref: MCO 5102.1, NAVSEA OP5 Vol. 1, para. 1-5.3
2. SOP'S MISSING, NOT SIGNED, OR OUT OF DATE. Ref: NAVSEA OP5 Vol. 1, para. 2-1.1, 1-4.3.1D, and 1-5.3
3. QUALIFICATION/ CERTIFICATIONS OUT OF DATE. Ref: MCO 8023.3
4. PUBLICATIONS OUT OF DATE/MISSING. Ref: NAVSEA OP5 Vol. 1, para. 1-5.2.2
5. EXPLOSIVES SAFETY OFFICER NOT ASSIGNED IN WRITING. Ref: NAVSEA OP5 Vol. 1, para. 1-4.2.1
6. FIRE MAPS NOT UP TO DATE OR MISSING. Ref: NAVSEA OP5 Vol. 1, para. 4-2.1.2
7. EXPLOSIVES DRIVERS LICENCE OR MEDICAL CERTIFICATES EXPIRED. Ref: SWO20-AF-ABK-010
8. INERT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM NEEDS UPDATE. Ref: NAVSEA OP5 Vol. 1, para. 2-1.4.6
9. AMMUNITION UNSECURED. Ref: NAVSEA OP5 Vol. 1
10. IMPROPER EXPLOSIVES VEHICLE PLACARD. Ref: NAVSEA SWO20-AF-ABK-010, CFR 49 172.519

Any surprises? Ammunition managers and ESO's should use this information to periodically assess the status of their local programs. BE PROACTIVE! Don't wait for an easily corrected deficiency to become an inspection finding. Ω

Capt. Wahle is assigned to the Environmental and Explosives Safety Branch of MARCORSYSCOM/AM, and may be reached at DSN 278-9477.

Blount Island Command (BIC)

GySgt. Tom Lane

Blount Island Command (Photo provided by Author)

Blount Island is located northeast of Jacksonville FL, on the St. Johns River. BIC occupies 762 acres of the island, and contains 14 major facilities, pier, railhead, intermodal yard, and staging area.

The concept of a Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) was envisioned during the late 1970's. The Marine Corps immediately recognized the advantages of prepositioning equipment and seized the opportunity to revolutionize combat readiness. The initial program developed in 1979 was called the Near Term Prepositioning Force (NTPF).

The NTPF used equipment and supplies from existing stocks and used available ships belonging to the Military Sealift Command (MSC). These ships were based at Diego Garcia with maintenance performed at Okinawa and Subic Bay Naval Bases.

In March 1983 the Commandant directed Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany to acquire the equipment and supplies for the MPF program. The Military Sealift Command leased 13 ships, that would be dedicated to the program and they were formed into three squadrons. The squadrons were designated Maritime Prepositioning Squadron (MPSRON) 1, 2, and 3. The first two squadrons were loaded in Wilmington, NC and the third was loaded in Panama City FL. The ammunition for all three squadrons was loaded at the Military Ocean Terminal, Sunny Point NC.

1989 BIC was established as a subordinate command of the Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Bases. BIC's mission focuses on attainment, maintenance, and sustainment of all MPS and Norway requirements. Also BIC provides technical assistance to MEF Commanders for all aspects of prepositioning planning and deployment.

MPF is a naval power projection asset that significantly supports the employment of Naval Expeditionary forces.



Railhead operations at BIC

Three current MPS squadrons provide a unique geo-strategically prepositioned capability. Employment of MPS assets during Desert Storm/Desert Shield, Restore Hope, and Continue Hope demonstrated the utility of these expeditionary assets. Coupled with fly-in Marines, MPF provided the first substantial ground defense, humanitarian relief, and security capability in-theater. Further, MPS squadrons provided sustainment for U.S. Army units the first month of Operation Desert Shield. Lessons learned revealed the need for improvements in MPF lift capacity. The MPF (Enhancement) program will add an additional ship to each squadron.

These additional ships will be loaded with heavy engineer support equipment, fleet hospitals, USMC joint task force infrastructure equipment, and expeditionary airfield (EAF) sets. The EAF's will dramatically increase our combined-arms combat power without dependence on existing airfields or aircraft carriers.

The MPF concept remains a relevant and proven capability which provides a cost-effective increase to U.S. crisis response capabilities. It is consistent with Forward...From the Sea and significantly increases responsiveness to contingencies, and provides operational flexibility for combat.

As a proven national strategic asset, Blount Island offers a variety of advantages to the Marine Corps not readily available at other sites. These include close proximity to the Marine Corps logistics center in Albany GA, access to a large industrial base and Navy support structure, excellent road and rail network, access to nearby airport facilities, dedicated pier, maintenance facilities, and genuine public and private business community support.

GySgt Lane is the Senior Ammunition Technician at BIC and may be reached at commercial (904) 696-5256.

Marine Ammunition School.... AMMO-101

CWO2 W.L. Holtzclaw and MGySgt E.L. Hodges
Marine Element, Ammunition School, Redstone Arsenal (Photo's provided by Authors)

These are exciting times for the ammunition community. The procurement of new munitions, the development of new processes and advancements in technology, all by-products of the proliferation of modern tactics and weapon systems, continue to affect the way we conduct our business. The center of gravity for the Marine Ammunition School at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville Alabama remains to ensure that the requisite knowledge is present throughout the FMF to safely and accurately provide the single most important commodity to America's war fighter; ammunition.

The Basic Course, where it all begins.

The Marine Element is a department of the Conventional Ammunition Division (CAD), Munitions Training Department (MTD), of the U.S. Army Ordnance Missile Munitions Center and School (USAOMMCS). Training and producing qualified ammunition technicians and specialists is the mission of the CAD. Notice the words Army or Marine Corps do not precede "qualified ammunition technicians". This is important because both the Army and the Marine Corps train their ammunition personnel in a joint environment here at Redstone.

Marine Corps ammunition technicians were originally trained within Schools Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Quantico. In response to a Department of Defense directive requiring the consolidation of training courses wherever possible, the Marine Corps shifted its ground ammunition training program from Quantico to Redstone during the summer of 1972. For the past twenty-eight years, Marine ammunition technicians have been trained as an integral part of the OMMCS structure. The syllabus varied in the years following consolidation, with Marine students spending the majority of the course in joint classes with their soldier counterparts.

Initial consolidation of mission requirements resulted, through an evolutionary process, in the development of



Class 29-00 properly stores empty ammo boxes.

an ammunition program of instruction that satisfies the needs of both the Army and Marine Corps. It is this difference that dictated the establishment of a Marine Corps Element aboard Redstone Arsenal to fill in the spaces created by the Army/Marine Corps doctrinal differences.

During FY1999, a total of three hundred and seven entry level Marines were assigned to Redstone Arsenal for basic ammunition training. Marines begin training alongside their Army counterparts in the 55B10 course and are subsequently trained in a joint environment for the first two annexes, or nine training days. Upon conclusion, the Marines branch off into the co-located Annex M portion of the course. This portion is conducted solely by the Marine Element and consists of specific training in Marine peculiar ammunition procedures. Annex M training is conducted over a period of seventeen training days. Marine instructors are provided in support of the consolidated training on a pro-rated/fair share basis.

Realizing the finite training window at the basic ammunition course, a total of 27 training days, coupled with an increase of student assignments to the using unit level, concerns throughout the FMF have been voiced that basic course graduates are not prepared to perform their duties once reporting to the fleet. In response to these concerns, the development of a computer based training course (CBT) has been initiated. The CBT will serve to bridge the gap between the foundation laid at the basic course and follow on training programs that are established by receiving commands IAW MCO 1510.78A (Individual Training Standards for OCCFLD 2300).

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Deliberate Planning for Marine Corps Class V (W)

Ms. Diane M. Smith

MARCORSYSCOM/AM-LOG

What is Deliberate Planning? According to Joint Pub 5-03.1 it is the Joint Operation and Planning Execution System (JOPES) process involving the development of joint operational plans and concept summaries for contingencies identified in joint strategic planning documents. Deliberate planning is conducted in peacetime, in prescribed cycles that complement other DoD planning cycles and conform with the formally established Joint Strategic Planning System. In other words, this is the process that creates and enters the data in a computer system that supports plans being developed at the joint level.

What is Crisis Action Planning? This is the JOPES process involving the time-sensitive development of plans and orders in response to an imminent crisis.

What is the difference? Deliberate planning is slower, allows personnel to become familiar with the process details, and allows the building of a framework from which crisis action planning and support can be implemented.

Any plan involving insertion of military forces into a conflict or contingency situation generally requires munitions to stand the force up and to sustain that force. Therefore, the Class V (W) portion of it is a careful analysis of what munitions would be required, the timing of the strategic deliveries of that requirement, and the sourcing of the required incremental shipments. Once these deliberate planning actions are completed, the data developed representing how that plan would be supported if it were executed at that moment in time is entered into the JOPES system to reflect the movement requirements. Crisis Action Planning may be executed if the proper authorizations are given. If it is based on an existing Deliberate Plan, the process is simply dusting off the plan and updating the sourcing data. If it is a new or unexpected plan, it may involve the same steps as Deliberate Planning but at a much accelerated pace.

The preceding description, of course, has been a simplified overview of the process. A more detailed description follows.

Once an Operational Plan (OPLAN) is developed, the supported Commander in Chief (CINC) works with the Joint Staff, J-7 to schedule conferences for the Service Component Commands to review their Forces, Logistic Sustainment, and Transportation requirements. The Forces are usually selected based on the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan (JSCP) allocations and the scope of the need. In the Marine Corps, once Forces are identified, the MDSS system is used to verify the TO and TE for the selected units and that data is entered into MAGTF II. The MAGTF II system is the part of the LOGAIS family of systems that supports deliberate planning and crisis response.

The Forces and weapons densities entered in MAGTF II are used by the MEF G4 Ammo Officers to develop the time-phased Class V (W) requirements. The MEF performs the initial sourcing of the Class V (W) requirements by using the Munitions listed in the Apportioned War Reserve Marine Ammunition Requirements Support Order (AWR MARSO) for those portions of their assets that are planned for use. For example, if the deploying Forces are taking only one MEU and two LFORM ships, only the munitions from those two LFORM ships would be used by the MEF to initially source the requirement. If their MPS ships were going to land, then those munitions could also be used to source the requirement. That is the reason the AWR Marso contains the prepositioning objective amount of munitions that are actually available. Anything unsourced at this point is called an operational shortfall.

As each MEF involved in the plan completes their portion they electronically forward their operational shortfall to the Component Command (MARFORPAC or MARFORLANT) and MARCORSYSCOM (AM-PLANS). The requirements are compiled and reviewed for errors. Once the Component Command is satisfied, MARCORSYSCOM sources from available retail stocks.

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These are the stocks above the AWR MARSO that are stored at Marine Corps bases and stations or at Navy installations. Anything unsourced at this point is called a retail shortfall.

The retail shortfalls are forwarded to the Single Manager for Conventional Ammunition (SMCA) for final sourcing in conjunction with all Services' requirements. The SMCA program compares the daily out loading requirements to the available Service wholesale assets, the daily out loading capacity, as well as the available port throughput capability. In other words, while shipping as quickly as possible SMCA also ensures that the amount planned for shipment does not exceed the ability to load and to ship it at any point. The SMCA works closely with the Services, supported CINC, Military Sealift Command (MSC), Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC), Transportation Command (TRANSCOM), and Air Mobility Command (AMC) to ensure proper prioritization and port utilization occurs.

The SMCA, the Transportation Office has also been assigned to be the Joint Munitions Transportation Coordinating Activity (JMTCA) for all commercial shipping of military munitions from CONUS. This designation was a result of implementing lessons learned from Desert Storm. The JMTCA times all wholesale and retail shipments through the ports to avoid the huge backlogs that built up during Desert Storm. Those backlogs were created by having too many offices simultaneously giving shipping directions to the depots.

To allay any confusion, SMCA does not source Marine Corps requirements from Army assets. They source our Marine Corps requirements from Marine Corps owned assets that are being stored at Army facilities. Anything unsourced after SMCA has completed their work is essentially the true shortfall. A shortfall means we do not own anymore of that particular item and we have no more suitable substitutes either. A few items may be able to be sourced from previously untapped retail locations, but those few items amount to only one or two tons of the total requirement.

When MARCORSYSCOM, AM-PLANS, receives the sourced and unsourced data back from SMCA, The data is converted into Unit Line Numbers

(ULN's) that are entered into MAGTF II. Once completed and reviewed that data file is provided to the Component Command for loading into JOPEs. ULN's are records in Time-Phased Force and Deployment Data (TPFDD) in JOPEs.

Later a transportation feasibility analysis is conducted by the CINC, Services, MTMC, MSC, AMC, and TRANSCOM and the records are adjusted to reflect the way material would actually flow.

The final product should realistically reflect when the material can be expected to flow into theater. The completed plan entered into the JOPEs system is reviewed and approved at the Joint Staff level and can be used should a contingency be executed.Ω

Ms. Smith is the Head, Logistics Division at MARCORSYSCOM/AM, and may be reached at DSN 278-9165.

Change to NAR's

CWO2 Anthony Liller
MARCORSYSCOM/AM-QA-M

As of OCT 1999, TWO24-AA-ORD010 Ammunition Unserviceable, Suspended, and Limited Use (NAR Book) has changed. Now, all units that have a requirement for ammunition are required to maintain all NAR's, AIN's, and Overhead Fire supplements. This is a change from previous direction that only required units to maintain NAR's. Paragraph 2-1.1.1 of the current NAR Book states:

"A NAR, AIN, and OHF Report (hard copy) file will be established and maintained in numerical sequence, from oldest to most current message. A cross-reference for all NAR's, AIN's, and OHF Reports will be established and maintained."

AIN's provide important technical, safety information pertaining to fuze settings, shelf life, hang fire procedures, inspection criteria and related situations. It is extremely important for all units to ensure the AIN's are getting to the Marines in the field.Ω

CWO2 Liller is the POC for this issue. He is assigned to MARCORSYSCOM/AM-QA-M, and may be reached at DSN 278-9494

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A long-term goal of the CBT program is to eventually secure an accredited Marine Corps Institute (MCI) correspondence course for the ammunition community.

Advanced and Mid-Level Schools

In addition to entry-level students, the Marine Element conducts advanced military occupational skill training for the ammunition community. The Marine Element conducts both the Marine Ammunition Managers Course and the Marine Ammunition NCO Course. The Managers Course is a resident course conducted aboard Redstone Arsenal three times a year. The Marine Ammunition NCO Course is conducted four times annually, alternating between Camp Lejeune, NC and Camp Pendleton, CA respectively. The Managers Course is principally for Staff NCOs and Officers, with a focus on advanced ammunition management skills. The NCO course concentrates on mid-level training for Marine Corporals and Sergeants. Both courses are considered co-located, and are approved and funded by MCCDC. Thirty Ammunition Manager seats and one hundred Ammunition NCO seats are available annually.

Cadre

By Table of Organization, the Marine Element is staffed by one CWO5 (OIC), one MgySgt (NCOIC), one MSgt (ANCOIC), three GySgts, and six SSgts, for a total of twelve instructors. The OIC wears many hats functioning as liaison between the Marine Corps and the Army, and serves as the Co-chairman of the Department of the Navy Explosive and Weapons System Safety Program Training and Education committee. Likewise, each instructor performs several collateral duties ranging from Platoon Sergeant, Training NCO, SACO, and even assist in manning a Color Guard Detail.

A broad base of experience exists within the Cadre as seven instructors have served on a B-Billet and eight instructors have participated in Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments. This translates into a "real world" spin with delivery of lesson plans to basic, mid-level, and advanced course students. Additionally evidence of career enhancement, four instructors were recently selected to the next higher grade, two each to MSgt and GySgt.



Ammunition Basic Class 32-00 completes a PE

Mobile Training Teams (MTTs)

The Marine Element dispatches task organized MTTs as requested and funded to meet FMF needs beyond the Ammunition NCO Course. For instance, MTTs travel to Aberdeen Proving Grounds for the Ordnance Chiefs Course twice a year and once a year for the Ordnance Officers Course. In March of this year, a MTT trained approximately one hundred active duty I&I Staff personnel from throughout CONUS at the Reserve Ammunition Conference in Kansas City. The Marine Element recently agreed to provide a MTT to the Infantry Officers Course in Quantico VA to assist in training Marine Gunners on ammunition and explosive safety concerns. Topics covered at each of these sites include malfunction reporting, ammunition training allowances, AA&E Policy and missing, lost, stolen and recovered (MLSR) reporting procedures.



CWO4 Patterson MARCORSYSCOM, Mr. Craig Smith Chief Programmer USADACS, SSgt Hollifield and Sgt Hanners instructors, discuss the development of a CBT program.

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The intent of these courses is to further expand the base of explosive safety knowledge to leadership across the using unit levels. Additionally, weekend training is provided to Marines from I&I Rome, GA and I&I Greenville, SC either at Redstone Arsenal or on their sites.

In June of this year, the Marine Element completed a fourteen-month training cycle that converted the Marine Reserve Platoon in Topeka Kansas from a ground supply platoon to an ammunition platoon. This served to increase the Marine Reserve ammunition capability by approximately one third of its current strength.

EDITORS NOTE

One of our astute readers made a point regarding the article on EMPTY AMMO CONTAINERS, published in the last issue of the AQ.

The article seems to be primarily directed to those installation organizations that may have the odd two or three Ammo Containers lying around. Guidance for marking/packaging large quantity turn-ins to DRMO by Ammo managers is found in ALMAR 151-94, 190101Z May 94, Marking of Empty Class V Containers for Turn-In to a Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO). We hope this clarifies the issue.

Thanks to Mr. Jim McGaughey, ESO at MCAS Cherry Point, for pointing out this area of possible confusion.

The entire staff is involved in several significant projects that will impact future Marine Corps ammunition training. As noted, the development of CBT correspondence course is well underway with an anticipated delivery date of November of this year. Additionally, the use of a Video Tele-Training Course is being explored in collaboration with the Army's Distance Learning Lab aboard Redstone Arsenal. This initiative may serve as a venue to provide training at the senior Officer/SNCO levels while allowing attendees to remain in their geographical region.

In July of this year, the Marine Element Web Page will go on line. This site will provide dates and locations of upcoming courses, uniform requirements among other useful information and links to ammunition sites. The site will be hosted by the MCCDC, T&E Division at www.tecom.usmc.mil/redstone and should be on line by 15 July.

A resident reserve course is being developed to answer the need for a career progression course in the reserve Ammunition community. Currently, a reserve ammunition technician has no follow on training beyond the basic course. Two resident courses are being considered for development, a Manager's Course and NCO course. Plans call for each course to be two weeks in length and occur during the summer annual training (AT) months. Target date to begin these courses is during the summer of 2002.Ω

CWO2 Holtzclaw and MGySgt Hodges are the OIC and NCOIC, respectively, of the Marine Element and may be reached at DSN 746-8441

**U.S. Marine Corps
Ammunition Quarterly**

Marine Corps Ammunition Information Publication

Program Manager for Ammunition

Mr. Jerry L. Mazza

Managing Editor

Mr. George E. Morrison

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